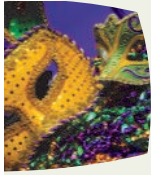




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Community *notes*

Visit The African Art Museum of Maryland

The African Art Museum of Maryland is dedicated to promoting a broader understanding and awareness of the diverse cultures and artistic expressions of the people of the African continent.



The museum celebrates International Women's Month with their first International Women's Forum on Sunday, March

12 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at 1171 East Market Place in Fulton. This event is free but seats are limited and reservations are required. Visitors can enjoy light refreshments, music, self-guided tours, and a supervised reading room for younger guests. Call 301-490-6070 for more information or visit their [website](#).

Citizens' Budget Hearing

The County Executive's second Citizens' Budget Hearing for the FY 2018 budget cycle will take place on Wednesday, March 8 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Banneker Room of the George Howard Building (3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City).

Residents may sign-up [online](#) to speak at the hearing. You have the option to submit budget testimony via the webpage, however, residents are reminded that internet testimony is considered public information. Speakers may sign-up in person on March 8 beginning at 6:00 p.m. and must register individually. For additional information, please contact the Budget Office at 410-313-2077.

Greetings

This weekend, the weather will range from spring-like to more seasonable. It gives us an opportunity to enjoy the festivities of Mardi Gras and other community events. I hope that you will revel in the fun.

Mary Kay

Star Party

Howard Astronomical League (HAL) will hold its first Public Star Party of 2017 on Saturday, March 4, 6:00 - 11:00 p.m. at the HAL Observatory at Alpha Ridge Park in Marriottsville. View the night sky through telescopes set up by HAL members as well as live images of the first quarter Moon on a big screen as seen through the observatory's Watson Telescope. Follow the [link](#) for more information and directions to this free event.

Leadership U Information Session

Howard County's Leadership U will host its final information session of this year on Thursday, March 2 from 7:00 until 8:00 p.m. at the Miller Branch Library (9421 Frederick Rd, Ellicott City). Leadership U is a leadership development and community service program open to current high school students who wish to participate in a unique leadership training program.

The curriculum offers high students an opportunity to learn how they may make a difference in the community and how to tap into their leadership skills. Students apply as sophomores and participate in the fall of their junior year. Interested ninth and tenth grade students and their parents are invited to hear more about this effective program. For more information, visit the [website](#) or contact [Meg Ignacio](#).



Upcoming High School Musicals

As our high school students continue to rehearse and prepare to put on various productions for the community, think about buying tickets and marking your calendars. It looks like a great list of productions this year.

Atholton High School

13 The Musical

March 2-4, 7:00 p.m.

March 4, 2:00 p.m.

This rock musical is a fish-out-of-water story of a New York teen who ends up in small town Indiana just before his bar mitzvah and how he struggles to navigate 8th grade in a place as strange as a small town in Indiana. Tickets are \$12.00 each at the door, or purchase tickets [online](#).



Reservoir High School

How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying

March 2-4, 7:00 p.m.

March 5, 2:00 p.m.

That'll be the question on everyone's mind as a young New York City window cleaner follows the advice of a book on how to climb the ladder and make it big. [Advance tickets are available online](#).

River Hill High School

The Little Mermaid

March 2-4, 7:00 p.m.

March 5, 2:00 p.m.

This family-friendly Disney classic is sure to be a hit with everyone. Wish you could be "part of that world?" Well, what are you waiting for? Get your tickets [here](#).

Wilde Lake High School

Seussical the Musical

March 9, 10, 11, 7:30 p.m.

This fantastical family musical is based on the books of Dr. Seuss, including favorites like "Horton Hears a Who!", "Horton Hatches the Egg," and "Miss Gertrude McFuzz." Buy your [tickets](#) today.



Centennial High School

Hello Dolly!

March 23-25, 7:00 p.m.

March 26, 3:00 p.m.

Come out to Centennial's production of this classic piece of theater about a meddlesome matchmaker who brings together



buy your tickets [online](#) or at the door.

the young clerk of a wealthy merchant and his assistant with a widowed milliner and her assistant, while making sure she herself gets to marry... what a whirlwind! Get swept up in this romantic comedy;

Cooking Demonstration at Secolari



Secolari will host a cooking demonstration led by Chef Daniel Wecker on Saturday, February 25 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Mall in Columbia (10300 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia).

Join Chef Wecker, Executive Chef of The ElkrIDGE Furnace Inn, as he walks us through preparing a French Feast of Braised Rabbit, Warm Mushroom Salad, and Winter Vegetable Quinoa, and shares his tricks of the trade.

This event is free and open to the public - no registration required. If you are unable to go to this session, Secolari hosts several cooking sessions a month. To see other dates, visit the event section on their [website](#).

Mardi Gras: Laissez Les Bon Temps Roulez

Celebrate Mardi Gras this Saturday, February 25 starting at 1:00 p.m. on Ellicott City's Main Street. Join the Scavenger Hunt to earn beads and win prizes! Stop at the Welcome Center to pick up your map of 35 participating retailers. Find the hidden Mardi Gras mask in each shop to earn a strand of beads. There'll be sales, snacks and libations along the way. Make sure to stop by Little French Market to sample and vote on free gumbo for their Gumbo Cook-Off! After completing your hunt, stop by the Welcome Center before 4:45 p.m. for instant prizes and a chance to win one of the 3 Grand Prizes. For more information, click [here](#).



If a scavenger hunt isn't for you, you may enjoy a Mardi Gras Ball hosted by Columbia United Christian Church on Saturday, February 25, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. at The Meeting House (5885 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia). Partake of appetizers, desserts and dancing with live music played by The David McGarvey Combo. Wear your best Mardi Gras costume and you may win a prize. The event is for adults only. Tickets are \$20.00 per person. View details [online](#).

Howard County Recreation & Parks hosts Mardi Gras Madness on Saturday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bain Center (5470 Ruth Keeton Way, Columbia). The party is designed for teens and adults with developmental disabilities. Enjoy dancing, socializing, and music by DJ Chris Andrews. Snacks and refreshments are provided. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. Register [online](#) today.

Reminder: Free Tax Preparation

Visit Howard County's free VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) site at the Multi-Service Center (9900 Washington Boulevard, Laurel). VITA offers free tax preparation assistance to most individual taxpayers who earn less than \$53,000 and to small sole proprietor businesses with claimed deductions less than \$10,000. Visit the [website](#) for important information.

Events at Robinson Nature Center

Have you visited the Robinson Nature Center recently? If not, the staff offers a variety of events for all ages. Featured below are several family friendly events that you may enjoy.

Friday, March 3

[Family NatureSphere Night, 6:30-7:30 p.m.*](#)

Ages 7 years and up with an adult. \$6.00 per person. This program features the full-dome movie "Astronaut" preceded by a fun, family-friendly planetarium presentation about current happenings in our night sky. Due to dark conditions, the venue cannot seat late arrivals once the show has begun. Please arrive early to be seated. To see a preview of the film, please [click here](#). *Join members of the Howard Astronomical League (HAL) for telescope viewing on green roof (weather-permitting) after the show.

[Friday Late Nights in the NatureSphere, 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.*](#)

Ages 18 years and up. \$6.00 per person. This program is for adults and features the full-dome movie "Impact!" preceded by a planetarium presentation about current happenings in our night sky and space science. Due to dark conditions, the venue cannot seat late arrivals once the show has begun. Please arrive early to be seated. To see a preview of the film, please [click here](#). *Join members of the Howard Astronomical League (HAL) for telescope viewing on green roof (weather-permitting) before the show.

Saturday, March 4

First Saturday Discovery Days, 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Ages 3-10 years with an adult. On the first Saturday of the month, join the Nature Center as they introduce a new, nature theme through games, stories and crafts. March's theme is Paleontology/Fossils. You can continue to explore the theme throughout the rest of the month in the Discovery Room's Field Station and with docent-led activities. This program is available on a first-come, first-served basis to the first 15 children and their adult chaperon. No registration necessary. The program is free with daily admission or annual pass.

Friday, March 17

[Family NatureSphere Night, 6:30-7:30 p.m.](#)

Ages 7 years and up with an adult. \$6.00 per person. This program features the full-dome movie "Astronaut" preceded by a fun, family-friendly planetarium presentation about current happenings in our night sky. Due to dark conditions, the venue cannot seat late arrivals once the show has begun. Please arrive early to be seated. To see a preview of the film, please [click here](#).

Reminder: MPP Benefit for MakingChange

Tuesday, March 14, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Merriweather Post Pavilion

Enjoy a backstage tour and beer tasting to benefit MakingChange, a nonprofit that provides group seminars and personal coaching to teach people to manage their money and change their lives. For more information, visit the event [website](#).

County Board Positions Available

The Plumbing Advisory Board is looking for two members from the general public who are interested in serving a five-year term. Board members are responsible for making recommendations to the Director of Inspections, Licenses and Permits, the County Executive and the County Council in all matters relating to the conduct of the plumbing business in Howard County.

For more information on the Plumbing Advisory Board, visit the County's [website](#) or call the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits at 410-313-2455.



Howard County Recreation & Parks Advisory Board seeks applicants to fill the student member position on the Board for a one-year term from July 1, 2017 until June 30, 2018. Board members provide recommendations relating to plans, policies, and programs for public recreation, and reviews plans for and holds hearings on the acquisition and development of land for public recreation and open space.

To be eligible for consideration, candidates must be Howard County residents enrolled in high school for the 2017-2018 academic year, have an interest in public recreation and be able to attend meetings held on the third Wednesday of each month from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m.

For more information about the Recreation & Parks Advisory Board, contact HCRP at 410-313-4640 or visit the [website](#).



Mary Kay Sigaty

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